

Monkeys suspiciously swept the board in *What DVD's Whatever Happened To The Chippendales?* competition.



PLANET OF THE APES

BUY IT FOR...

- TALKING MONKEYS!
- THE AMAZING APE MOVEMENT
- APE-TASTIC EXTRAS

DETAILS

RRP \$39.95 RATING M15+ YEAR 2001

DIRECTOR TIM BURTON

STARRING MARK WAHLBERG, TIM ROTH, HELENA BONHAM CARTER, MICHAEL CLARKE DUNCAN

PICTURE ANAMORPHIC WIDESCREEN 2.35:1

SOUND DOLBY DIGITAL 5.1/DTS

THE FILM

"THAT'S THE WAY TO THE ZOO, THAT'S THE WAY TO THE ZOO, The monkeyhouse is nearly full, but there's room enough for you..." as the old song goes.

In the various Making Of featurettes contained on this stunning *Planet Of The Apes* DVD, everyone goes to great pains to stress that this is not a remake or a sequel. It's a "re-imagining." Good job really, as, let's face it, nothing can hold a torch to the 1968 original, with Chuck Heston as our tortured human soul on the planet ruled by talking apes.

It would be unfair to compare Tim Burton's new spin on a long-running franchise to that first cinematic outing; so let's do it, just for a second. It's in the leading men where the gap between the two movies shows the most. There

was something special about Heston — he was the only human on the planet who could speak, opening up whole issues of evolution and the mastery of ape over human, the mute slaves. It gave his character a unique edge. In this new version, Mark Wahlberg is the hero abroad, but on this planet of the apes, the humans speak, and appear just as intelligent as him. What makes him so special then? All the way through, the apes nod sagely (or villainously), regularly noting, "There's something different about him..." Actually, there isn't and, unfortunately, it makes the usually reliable Mr Wahlberg the weakest (missing?) link.

You know the story — good guy, apple pie astronaut crash lands on an alien planet while trying to recover a chimpanzee-manned space pod

Best Bit!



DAMN DIRTY HESTON Timecode 0:55:39 He had to be there! Chuck Heston pops up in a cameo as Thade's aged pop. "Damn them all to hell..."

missing in the course of duty. There's a throwaway (blink and you'll miss it) plot McGuffin of time travel that confuses rather than helps, but it is important when the planet you've landed on is ruled by intelligent apes, with humans the subservient species. Our hero is captured, escapes (thanks to the →



He liked to make everything harder on himself ...

Estella Warren is carted off to acting school. (Well, it was a nice thought.)



Shoot nuts into the monkey's mouth and win a cuddly
Charlton Heston!

"THIS IS A BURTON FILM – VISUAL FLAIR IS ASSURED"

↑ FEATURE FOCUS

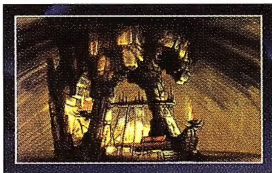
MULTI-ANGLE FEATURETTES

This is a fantastic feature that really shows what DVD is all about and why we love it so much. The Multi-Angle Featurettes plunge into even more depth about the movie, focusing on four key scenes in several ways.



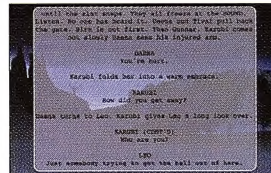
1) MULTI-ANGLE

Use the remote to flick between different angles (plus you can use the audio button to switch between two different audio tracks). A third option allows you to view the scene with all three angles together.



2) PRODUCTION ART

Use the navigation bar at the bottom of the screen and enter into a gallery of production sketches such as set designs and prop pictures relating to the particular scene that you happen to be viewing.



3) SHOOTING SCRIPT

A nice feature for anyone obsessed with the art of screenwriting for the movies. Click into this and you get the shooting script for the scene to compare with how it eventually unfolds in the final edit of the movie.



4) FINAL CUT

No DVD feature of this nature would be complete without being able to view the sequence you have just studied as it finally appeared. A fascinating extra for anyone with an interest in film-making but doesn't want to do a course.

"Eh, it's just like Wollongong!"



→ timely intervention of a sympathetic chimp played by Helena Bonham Carter) and runs away to the desert, where he thinks he'll be rescued by his space buddies. Chuck in the deliciously villainous Tim Roth as Thade, vicious leader of the ape military who must stop the spaceman at all costs before he reveals the truth about the origins of their society, and this has all the ingredients for a jolly old romp.

Of course, this is a Tim Burton movie, so fantastic direction and visual flair are assured, allowing us to forgive some fairly large holes in the plot (that time travel will get you every time). He paints this world in rich colours.

Of the cast, Wahlberg is forgettable, but he is saddled with a part that would bore the arse of any seasoned pro, while Estella Warren might look pretty as the human totty, but really, she should have had a lie-in. It's the simians who get the good material – Roth is obviously having a ball as the villain of the piece (rumour has it he turned down *Harry Potter* for this) but it's Bonham Carter who impresses, delivering a typically sensitive performance.

Every fault the movie has would be forgivable if the script hadn't opted for a twist ending. This is the single worst crime any movie maker can commit, and it's highly recommended that you

switch off three minutes before the end to avoid it. You have been warned.

Die-hard *Apes* fans might find this new version of *Planet Of The Apes* has one spoonful of sugar too many to help the medicine go down, lacking the human heart of the original. On the other hand, it lets one of Hollywood's most interesting directors loose in a brand new world, which is always worth coughing up the dollars for.

THE DISC

■ **PICTURE:** It's becoming increasingly difficult to find new things to say about top quality picture transfers, as most recent blockbusters are coming out

with faultless image quality. It's nothing less than we should demand from our top drawer DVDs, and thankfully we don't need to go ape here as this release delivers the goods.

■ **SOUND:** Tim Burton always delivers an exciting soundstage for his movies, a heady mix of quick dialogue, unusual sound effects and the obligatory Danny Elfman score. This will sound great on your six speaker set-up, and you'll still get credible results if the disc is playing through your TV's built-in speakers – the sign of a good mix.

■ **COMMENTARIES:** Two for your money, but you don't get them at the same time – because that would be silly, wouldn't it? Tim Burton raps about directory things – no introduction, he's just straight in. He admits to being reluctant at first to take on the project as he was ten years old when the original came out. Mr Burton is a bit more upbeat than he was on *Sleepy Hollow*, but you get the impression these are interview soundbites being spliced in. Composer Danny Elfman is always good value for money, and anyone interested in film music will get a kick of hearing from this giant.

■ **ENHANCED VIEWING MODE:** Adds even more information to the commentaries (see *Feature Focus*).

■ **CAST AND CREW PROFILES:** Fairly comprehensive notes on the major cast, and crew members. At last! Somebody has tried doing something different with these by containing several pieces of video footage within the notes – Estella Warren's first audition (and they

FEATURE FOCUS

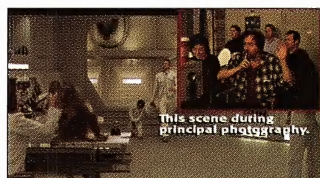
ENHANCED VIEWING MODE

Clicking on this nifty little feature will bring the background of the film alive even more, using a picture-in-picture tool to take you deeper into the movie.



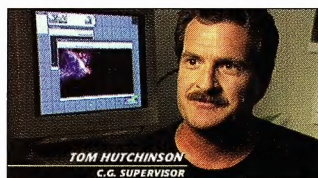
INTERVIEWS

At the correct moment, a picture-in-picture window pops up, where a helpful behind-the-scenes chap talks about this part of the movie, either about the visual effects or explaining a plot point. Here, screenwriter Lawrence Konner explains the story behind the genetic altering of the monkeys to make them more intelligent for the missions.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Behind-the-scenes footage is always great for getting over the atmosphere on set during the shoot, and giving the audience a different perspective, almost like a multi-angle feature. Here we get to see a scene as it was in the movie, but the picture-in-picture window shows how a technician might have seen it at exactly the same moment.

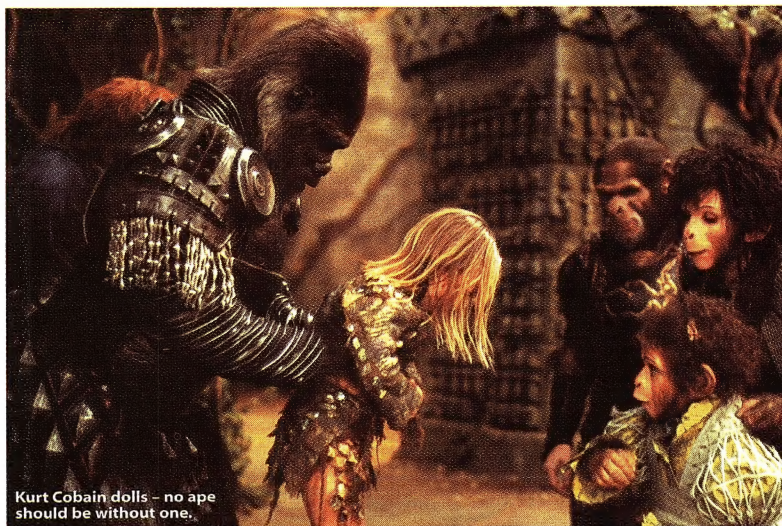


VISUAL EFFECTS

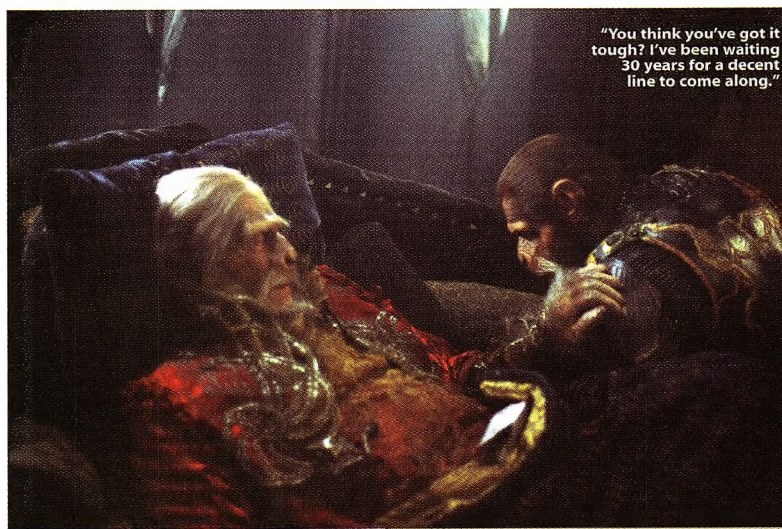
Allowing you to go deeper into the making of the film these *Follow The White Rabbit*-type features are becoming increasingly popular, and it's used to good effect here. When a symbol appears on screen (the brand given to mark a human on the *Planet Of The Apes*) press Enter, and it takes you into an interview about the visual effect on screen at the time.



"You're not leaving until the ape who ate all the custard owns up."



Kurt Cobain dolls - no ape should be without one.



"You think you've got it tough? I've been waiting 30 years for a decent line to come along."

called her back?!?), Luke Eberl's first audition and Erick Avari's audition (he's good!).

■ **HBO MAKING OF:** The great thing about this disc is that it's layered - a bit like a three course meal (or something...) This HBO Making Of - detailed in itself at 23 minutes long - is like the starter, containing interviews and behind-the-scenes footage, hosted by the gravel-voiced Michael Clarke Duncan. What you have for a main course is seven featurettes that take us in greater detail through some of the topics introduced here.

■ **FEATURETTES:** Seven (count 'em!) featurettes that add layers of texture to the making of the film. *Simian Academy* is around 25 minutes long and looks at how the ape movement was developed, with members of the cast learning how to walk like an ape; *Face Like A Monkey* is even longer at nearly 30 minutes long and looks at Rick Baker's make up work. The other five featurettes range from four minutes to ten minutes in length - *Ape Coutour*, *On Location In Lake Powell*, *Chimp Symphonie OP.37*, *Swinging From*

DID YOU KNOW?

■ In the HBO Making Of, having being up since 4am and sitting in makeup for three hours, Michael Clarke Duncan gets a bit upset when Mark Wahlberg waltzes in at nine for a bit of lipply - and that's all.



The Trees and Stunt Test are your choices.

■ MULTI-ANGLE FEATURETTES:

An interesting feature that allows you to sit in the director's chair (See *Feature Focus*).

■ EXTENDED SCENES:

Five scenes have been extended for your pleasure and

delectation. These don't really add anything bar an extra line or two of dialogue, and, unless Tim Burton is supremely talented in not having to cut whole scenes at the editing stage, there must have been some deleted scenes knocking around. Still, nice to have.

■ **MUSIC VIDEO:** *Rule the Planet* as composed by Danny Elfman and remixed by top DJ Paul Oakenfold, accompanied by fast edits of footage from the movie.

■ **TRAILERS AND TV SPOTS:** A good selection of promo material, including teaser and full trailer, six TV spots, and trailers for the Fox movies *Dr Dolittle 2* and the magnificent *Moulin Rouge*. You'll also find a promo spot for the Danny Elfman soundtrack along the way.

■ ART GALLERY & PRESS KIT: A

gallery of poster art used in publicity for the movie, and a reproduction of the text from the press kit that trumpeted the movie at screenings. Yet another piece of *Apes* ephemera to make this as complete a document as possible.

■ **GALLERY:** There is some duplication of images from other areas of the disc, but this really is an extensive package of stills (around 750) that covers props, production sketches and other aspects of the design work. Excellent.

■ **EASTER EGG:** Giggle! Go and find it.

■ **DVD-ROM CONTENT:** Various additional text based features, the movie script and a storyboard comparison for you lucky lot with DVD-ROM drives on your PC.

MARK WRIGHT

IS IT WORTH IT?

20th Century Fox has done it again by serving up yet another extras-packed disc. The movie isn't perfect, but it's a Tim Burton, so it looks beautiful and is never less than entertaining. A must-buy.



Planet Of The Apes Timeline

1963: French novelist Pierre Boulle writes *La Planète Des Singes*.

1967: Fox executive Richard Zanuck green-lights production of an adaptation of Boulle's novel, to be titled *Planet Of the Apes*. Zanuck would go on to produce Tim Burton's version in 2001.

1968: The original *Planet Of the Apes*, starring Charlton Heston, is released in the US. It cost US\$5 million to make and grossed millions worldwide.

1970: A sequel is released, with Charlton Heston returning briefly just to be killed off.

1971: *Escape From the Planet Of the Apes* is released, with the popular star Roddy McDowall returning as chimpanzee Dr Cornelius travelling to present-day Earth.

1972: *Conquest Of the Planet of the Apes* is released in cinemas worldwide.

1973: The final *Apes* movie for 27 years, *Battle For The Planet Of the Apes*, hits the screens.

1974: Roddy McDowall appears in all 14 episodes of the *Planet Of the Apes* TV series. A short lived children's cartoon is not far behind. Although still popular, the *Apes* franchise then goes quiet...

1994: Pierre Boulle dies.

1998: Roddy McDowall dies.

NOVEMBER 2000: Filming begins on a new version of *Planet Of the Apes*, directed by Tim Burton and starring Mark Wahlberg and Tim Roth.

JULY 2001: *Planet Of the Apes* receives its world premiere. It grosses US\$180 million at the US box office alone, proving monkeys aren't stupid at all.

